

USIC

I would like to thank you for allowing USIC to provide a proposal for MTBA's Underground Utility Locating. This being our first actual look at the bid, we have several questions that we would need to have answered before we can provide a bid for this work. My apology for all the questions, but I think MTBA can appreciate the depth that we are looking into this so that USIC will have full understanding of your requirements, and therefore USIC can provide you with the highest quality of service.

We look forward to your answers.

Questions: For each utility you own, please answer the locating questions for the corresponding utility **in RED**, and please leave not applicable questions blank. Thank you.

- **Please indicate the specific utilities MTBA is responsible for.** (For example: Fiber optic cable, Coax cable, twisted pair copper, electric distribution, sewer, streetlights, traffic signals, gas, water, etc.)

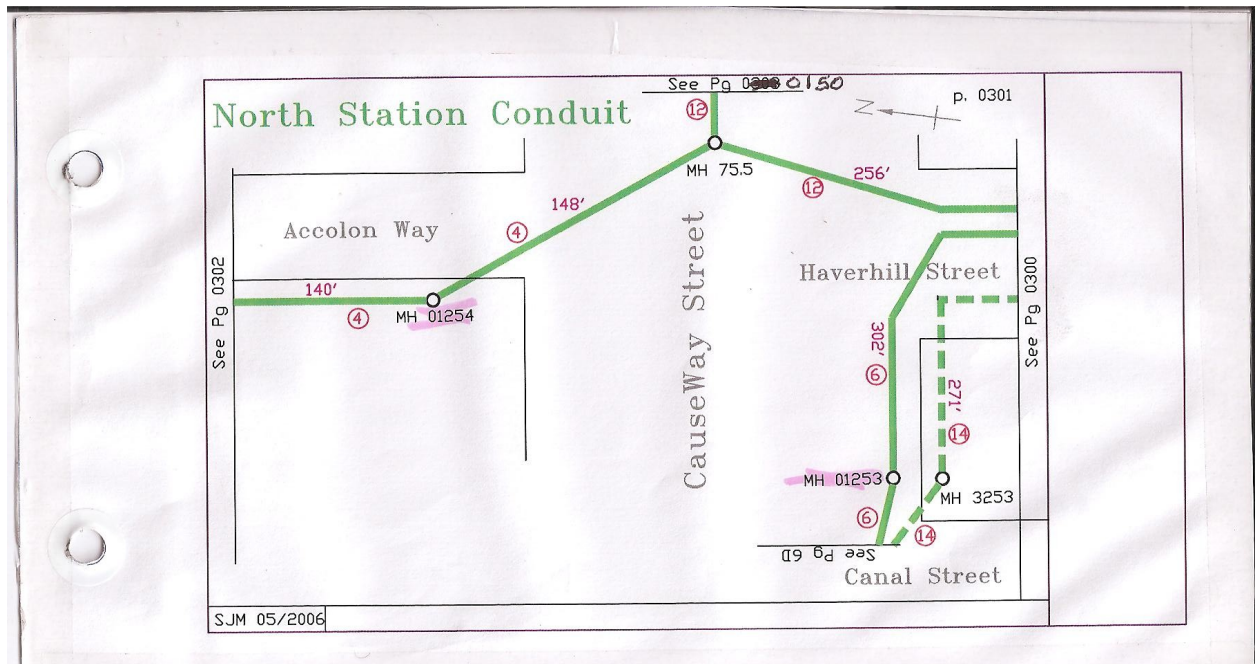
A: The MBTA is responsible for 600VDC, 13.8kV cables, and 480V cables. These cables are the majority of the cables that will be required to mark out.

- Will USIC need any traffic permits to perform your locate work? If so, please list all permits needed.

A: The utility locating company is responsible to obtain their own permits, police detail, etc. the MBTA Power Department doesn't get involved in that process.

- USIC will need a map sample for each utility type. Please send over your map samples with your answers to this document and indicate what file types you have available. For example, GIS, EZRI, KMZ etc.

A: The typical document will be a scanned paper document. We are in the process of trying to upgrade our documents into a GIS program, but we are not at that point yet.



- Are all the utilities locatable using a cable locator or does your team require other locating devices? If not, please identify the other devices they use to perform the utility locating.

A: The locating shall be performed in accordance with MBTA Power Department Specification P-163. The contractor will be required to submit the proposed locating device to the MBTA. However, we are open to your preferred device as long as it can perform the required function.

- Will the MBTA put in writing that if the utility is not mapped, that the Contractor will be released of any liability should the utility be damaged?

A: No

Please answer the following locate questions broken down by utility type:

Electric Utility

1. What type of electric is being referenced/what does the electric provide power to? For example: Electric distribution feeding to buildings, Electric feeding Tollbooths, Streetlights, Traffic Signals, Message Boards, etc. Please list all that may apply.

A: The electric utilities will be 13.8kV routed between MBTA Traction Power substations and 600VDC routed between Traction Power Substations and the MBTA ROW.

The vast majority of our cables are located in conduits in duct banks.

2. If this utility is damaged, will it shut down the MTBA (will all the streetlights go out for example) or do you have backup generators? Please explain your process for handling a damage event here.

A: It depends on the location and circumstance but typically we have enough redundancy built into our system that a utility being damaged will not shut down a transit line or a substation.

3. Will USIC be required to enter any energized (Cabinet, enclosures, Etc.), to hook onto the electric to be located?

A: USIC will typically be required to hook onto our cables by removing a manhole cover and clamping onto a cable from outside the manhole. The cables are energized but USIC will not be asked to enter manholes.

4. If there are streetlights, do the maps show all the buried wires feeding each light and power source?

A: The contract doesn't require you to mark out streetlights, but you may be asked to mark out MBTA parking lot lights. In this instance, we would provide drawings if available.

5. If there are streetlights, will they have an access plate on the poles?

A: See answer to Question #4.

6. If there are streetlights, how many streetlights are in your system?

A: See answer to Question #4.

7. If there are traffic signals, are they controlled by a loop system?

A: You will not be marking out traffic signals.

8. If there are traffic signals, do they include cameras or radar?

A: See answer to Question #7.

9. Has the Electric ever been damaged? If so, what was the average cost of the Electric to be repaired?

A: Yes, we have had damage to our utilities, but the damage and cost has varied depending on the circumstances surrounding the event. This is a rare event for us.

10. Provide any additional information that your locating team might think will be helpful to the Contractor in assessing their ability to perform the Electric Locating.

A: The contractor will be dispatched directly by Dig Safe. The MBTA Power Department doesn't typically get involved in this process unless there is a question or a problem.

The MBTA will require you to locate MBTA Power Department utilities on our property occasionally, but most of your work will locate requests directly from DigSafe.

You will be required to obtain MBTA ROW certification which is given by the MBTA at no cost and will be an 8-hour course given at the MBTA Cabot Bus Facility in South Boston.

Communications Utility

1. Please identify if this is fiber optic, coax cable, or twisted pair copper.

A: This contract doesn't require communications locates.

2. Is this utility buried inside conduit?

A:

3. If this utility is twisted pair copper, does this utility have ground bonding straps on all the cables?

A:

4. Does the communications utility have a tracer wire?

A:

5. If Yes, is the tracer wire brought above ground for locating? Or will the technician have to gain access to a handhole, pedestal, or confined space like a manhole to hook onto the utility for locating? Please explain.

A:

6. If there are handholes, what is the average distance between handholes?

A:

7. If there is manhole entry required, please identify how many manholes are in your system, and if there are anything we should know about entering them.

A:

8. Does the utility have a metal armored jacket?

A:

9. If this utility does NOT have tracer wire or a metal armored jacket, or bonding straps, please explain how you are currently performing this locate?

A:

10. Is the communications utility buried in a common trench with the Electric utility?

A:

11. Has this utility ever been damaged? If so, what was the average cost of the repair?

A:

12. Are there any special tools or keys needed to gain access to this utility for locating?

A:

13. Will this utility feed into any buildings? If so, please describe.

A:

14. Is there anything else we should know about locating this utility? Please explain if so.

A:

Water Utility

1. What would the water be feeding? (i.e. – Rest stops, State Maintenance Shops, etc.)

A: This contract doesn't require Water Utility Locating.

2. Will USIC be required to enter into any buildings to hook onto the water? If yes please explain.

A:

3. What are the material types (i.e. Plastic, Ductile, Transite), of the water mains and services?

A:

4. Does the water utility have tracer wire on all the mains and services? If not, please indicate which parts of the system do have tracer vs what does not.

A:

6. Has the Water ever been damaged? If so, what was the average cost of the Water to be repaired?

A:

7. Provide any additional information that your locating team might think will be helpful to the Contractor in assessing their ability to perform the Water Locating.

A:

Gas Utility

1. Please identify if this gas is Propane or Natural Gas?

A: This contract doesn't require Gas Utility Locating.

2. If Natural Gas, we are assuming that we will only be marking the service lines past the meter – Please confirm

A:

3. What Company is providing the Gas?

A:

4. What would the Gas be feeding? (i.e. – Rest stops, State Maintenance Shops, etc.)

A:

5. Will the Contractor be required to enter into any buildings to hook onto the gas?

A:

6. Has the Gas ever been damaged? If so, what was the average cost of the Gas to be repaired?

A:

7. If Propane, assuming we will mark the line from the tank to the building and interconnects to other buildings – Please confirm?

A:

8. Provide any additional information that your locating team might think will be helpful to the Contractor in assessing their ability to perform the Gas Locating.

A:

Sewer Utility

1. What is the material makeup of the forced Mains (i.e. Plastic, Ductile, etc.)

A: This contract doesn't require Sewer Utility Locating.

2. Is this a gravity system with lift stations? Please indicate yes/no and list how many lift stations are in your system.

A:

3. Will any sewer laterals require marking? If so, please explain how are these laterals being located?

A:

4. Do you mark the electric lines that power your lift stations?

A:

5. Does this system have tracer wire? If only partially, please explain what does vs what does not.

A:

6. What are the typical locations for the sewer mains?

A:

7. Do your maps show measurements for the forced mains?

A:

8. Has the sewer utility ever been damaged? If so, what is the average cost of a repair?

A:

9. Provide any additional information that your locating team might think will be helpful for your sewer locates.

A: